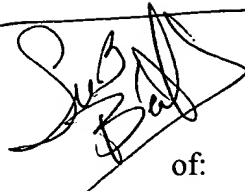



REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number.

 1. (Amended) A method of verifying charges on a customer bill, comprising the steps

of:

 downloading, from a mainframe computer, to a local server billing data associated with a customer account, the billing data being associated with a hold bill that is scheduled to be sent as a customer bill to a customer, the hold bill including calculated tax charges;

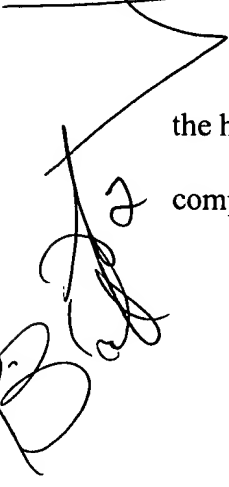
populating a database with a portion of the billing data;

performing pre-calculation functions on another portion of the billing data and populating the database with results of the pre-calculation functions;

displaying predetermined categories of information stored in the database;

calculating the taxes for each of several charges in the billing data and storing tax results in the database; and

comparing the tax results with the calculated tax charges on the customer hold bill.

 11. (Amended) A method of verifying taxes on account charges on a customer hold bill, the hold bill being a bill that is scheduled to be sent as a customer bill to a customer, the method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a tax rate information database that is in communication with a data network;

maintaining a database that includes account charges;

Handwritten: B1
automatically applying the tax rate information to the account charges and storing a
result;
displaying the result on a computer that is in communication with the data network; and
comparing the result with the taxes appearing on the hold bill.

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16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising applying optical character
recognition software to the image and storing a file representative of characters obtained.

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20. (Amended) A method of independently verifying the accuracy of tax charges on a
bill generated for a customer account, the bill being one that is scheduled to be sent as a
customer bill to a customer, the method comprising the steps of:

downloading data, including customer charges, that is the basis for bill generation, to a
local server;

automatically determining which charges are subject to taxation;

automatically calculating the tax for the charges subject to taxation and storing tax
results;

displaying the tax results; and

comparing the tax results to the tax charges on the bill,

wherein the bill generated for a customer account is generated on a mainframe computer
and the local server is operable separately from the mainframe computer.